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CCCN REPORT PHYTOSOCIOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Report 4 of the Committee for Change and Conservation of Names (CCCN)

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Abstract

We report the decisions of the GPN assembly in 2025 regarding previous recommendations of the Committee for Change and Conservation of Names (CCCN) and we discuss three Requests for a binding decision and four nomenclatural Proposals. Recommendations on acceptance or rejection of these Proposals are provided.

Taxonomic reference: Euro+Med PlantBase (https://europlusmed.org/) [accessed 14 Nov 2025]

Abbreviations: CCCN = Committee for Change and Conservation of Names; GPN = Working Group for Phytosociological Nomenclature; IAVS = International Association for Vegetation Science; ICPN = International Code of Phytosociological Nomenclature, ed. 4; VCS = Vegetation Classification and Survey.

Keywords

binding decision, nomenclature, nomen conservandum, phytosociology, syntaxonomy

Introduction

The Committee for Change and Conservation of Names (CCCN) – a Topic Committee of the IAVS Working Group for Phytosociological Nomenclature (GPN) – has the task to evaluate (a) Requests for binding decisions on controversial or ambiguous cases in the interpretation of the International Code of Phytosociological Nomenclature (ICPN; Theurillat et al. 2021), and (b) Proposals for the conservation or rejection of syntaxon names. Here we present the fourth CCCN Report. Its structure is the same as that of the previous Report (Willner et al. 2024).

In January 2025, the GPN Steering Committee co-opted Flavia Landucci to the CCCN, which now consists of seven members: Wolfgang Willner (chair), Andraž Čarni, Federico Fernández-González, Flavia Landucci, Jens Pallas, Massimo Terzi and Jean-Paul Theurillat. During 2025, the CCCN discussed four Proposals for nomina

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conservanda and three Requests for a binding decision concerning the name-giving taxa of syntaxon names and the correct sequence of these taxon names.

Authors wishing to submit a Proposal or a Request for a binding decision are kindly asked to consult Appendices 2 and 6 of the ICPN, respectively (Theurillat et al. 2021). It is also highly recommended to consult the Proposals and Requests previously published in VCS. There are two possibilities for submitting a Proposal or Request. They can be submitted as independent articles using the VCS submission system, in which case article processing charges may apply depending on the author's country and status. If the Proposal is part of a comprehensive nomenclatural revision, it may also be included as an Appendix to this paper [see Marcenò et al. (2024) for an example]. Alternatively, authors can submit a Proposal or a Request by e-mail to the chair of the CCCN. In the latter case, the Proposals and the Requests will be published in the next CCCN Report (the authors of each Proposal will be indicated) and the publication is free of charge.

Decisions by the GPN Assembly

Between 2nd June and 6th July 2025, the members of the GPN were asked to vote on the recommendations published in the last CCCN Report (Willner et al. 2024). Altogether, 24 valid votes were received, and all recommendations by the CCCN (positive and negative ones) were approved. In detail, the results were as follows:

Proposals

[Note: An asterisk (*) after the number of the Proposal indicates that the recommended version differs from the original one. The agreement or disagreement of the GPN members relates to the CCCN recommendation (i.e., whether the Proposal is recommended or not), not on the Proposal itself.]

(22*) To conserve the name *Mesobromion erecti* (Braun-Blanquet et Moor 1938) Zoller 1954 against the name *Bromion erecti* Koch 1926 [recommended]: 19 agreed, 4 disagreed.

(23) To conserve the name *Galio sylvatici-Carpinetum betuli* Oberdorfer 1957 against *Querco pedunculatae-Carpinetum betuli* Klika 1928 [recommended]: 24 agreed.

(24*) To conserve the name *Lithospermo-Carpinetum betuli* Oberdorfer 1957 against *Carpinetum betuli* Issler 1924 [recommended]: 22 agreed, 2 disagreed.

(25*) To conserve the name *Stellario holosteae-Carpinetum betuli* Oberdorfer 1957 against *Alno glutinosae-Carpinetum betuli* Issler 1924 [not recommended]: 24 agreed.

(26) To conserve the name *Nanocyperetalia* Klika 1935 against *Nanocypero-Polygonetalia* Koch 1926 [recommended]: 24 agreed.

(27) To conserve the name *Isoetetalia* Braun-Blanquet 1936 with a conserved type [recommended]: 24 agreed.

(28) To conserve the name *Molinio arundinaceae-Quercetum* Neuhäusl et Neuhäuslová-Novotná 1967 against *Molinio arundinaceae-Quercetum* Samek 1962 [recommended]: 24 agreed.

(29) To conserve the name *Omphalodo nitidae-Coryletum avellanae* Amigo, G. Azcárate et Romero 1994 with a conserved type [not recommended]: 20 agreed, 3 disagreed.

(30) To conserve the name *Polysticho setiferi-Fraxinetum excelsioris* (Tüxen et Oberdorfer 1958) Rivas-Martínez ex Díaz et Fernández Prieto 1994 with a conserved type [not recommended]: 22 agreed, 2 disagreed.

Requests for a binding decision

[Note: Requests numbered (A) refer to additional Requests by the CCCN that arose during the discussion of Proposals. The agreement or disagreement of the GPN members relates to the CCCN recommendation (i.e., whether the Request is recommended or not), not on the Request itself.]

(1) Name-giving taxon in the name *Isoeto longissimae-Cicendietum* Braun-Blanquet 1967 nom. corr. [recommended]: 24 agreed.

(2) Name-giving taxon in the name *Gnaphalio-Verbenetum supinae* Rivas Goday 1970 nom. invers. [recommended]: 24 agreed.

(3) Valid publication of the names *Xerobromion erecti* and *Mesobromion erecti* in Zoller 1954 [recommendation: both names are valid]: 22 agreed, 1 disagreed, 1 abstention.

(A1) Valid publication of the names *Carpinetum betuli* and *Alno-Carpinetum betuli* in Issler 1924 [recommendation: both names are valid]: 24 agreed.

(A2) Name-giving taxon in the name *Lithospermo-Carpinetum betuli* Oberdorfer 1957 [recommended]: 24 agreed.

(A3) Name-giving taxon in the name *Nanocyperetalia* Klika 1935 [recommended]: 24 agreed.

(A4) Name-giving taxa in the names *Isoetetalia* Braun-Blanquet 1936 and *Isoetion* Braun-Blanquet 1936 [recommended]: 24 agreed.

(4) Name-giving taxon in the names *Molinio arundinaceae-Quercetum* Samek 1962 and *Molinio arundinaceae-Quercetum* Neuhäusl et Neuhäuslová-Novotná 1967 [recommended]: 24 agreed.

Updates to the Appendices of the ICPN

The following entries are to be added to **Appendix 3** [Conserved names (*nomina conservanda*) and names with a conserved type].

(=) heterotypic synonyms
(≡) homotypic synonyms
(H) homonyms

(22) *Mesobromion erecti* (Braun-Blanquet et Moor 1938) Zoller 1954 nom. cons. [Zoller 1954: 36, 253]
Basionym: *Mesobromenion erecti* Braun-Blanquet et Moor 1938 [Braun-Blanquet and Moor 1938: 37]
(≡) *Bromion erecti* Koch 1926 [Koch 1926: 121]
Typus: *Mesobrometum erecti* Braun-Blanquet ex Koch 1926 [automatic lectotypus; Art. 20]

(23) *Galio sylvatici-Carpinetum betuli* Oberdorfer 1957 nom. cons. [Oberdorfer 1957: 424–435]
(=) *Querco pedunculatae-Carpinetum betuli* Klika 1928 [Klika 1928: 34–37]
Typus: Oberdorfer (1952), table 2, rel. 86a [lectotypus; Willner and Grabherr 2007: 232]

(24) *Lithospermo purpurocaerulei-Carpinetum betuli* Oberdorfer 1957 nom. cons. [Oberdorfer 1957: 440–442]
(≡) *Carpinetum betuli* Issler 1924 [Issler 1924: 35–43]
Typus: Issler (1926), table 3, rel. 2 [neotypus; Willner et al. 2024: 261]

(26) *Nanocyperetalia flavescentis* Klika 1935 nom. cons. [Klika 1935: 292]
(≡) *Nanocypero-Polygonetalia* Koch 1926 [Koch 1926: 20]
Typus: *Nanocyperion flavescentis* Koch 1926 [holotypus]

(27) *Isoetetalia durieui* Braun-Blanquet 1936 typus cons. [Braun-Blanquet 1936: 142]
Typus conservandum: *Isoetion durieui* Braun-Blanquet 1936 [Braun-Blanquet 1936: 141]

(28) *Molinio arundinaceae-Quercetum roboris* Neuhäusl et Neuhäuslová-Novotná 1967 nom. cons. [Neuhäusl and Neuhäuslová-Novotná 1967: 17–23, table 2]
(H) *Molinio arundinaceae-Quercetum roboris* Samek 1962 [Samek 1962: 134–135, table V on p. 156–160]
Typus: Neuhäusl and Neuhäuslová-Novotná (1967), table 2, rel. 11 [lectotypus; Pallas 1996: 51]

The following entries are to be added to **Appendix 7** [Binding decisions].

- **Article 2. Valid publication of a name.**

The following names are validly published:

Alno glutinosae-Carpinetum betuli Issler 1924 [Issler 1924: 24–34]
Carpinetum betuli Issler 1924 [Issler 1924: 35–43]
Mesobromion erecti (Braun-Blanquet et Moor 1938) Zoller 1954 [Zoller 1954: 36, 253]
Xerobromion erecti (Braun-Blanquet et Moor 1938) Zoller 1954 [Zoller 1954: 36, 50, 52]

- **Article 40. Selection of the name-giving taxon for names published before 1 January 1979.**

Gnaphalio luteoalbi-Verbenetum supinae Rivas Goday 1970 nom. invers. [Rivas Goday 1970: 273]
Isoetetalia durieui Braun-Blanquet 1936 typus cons. [Braun-Blanquet 1936: 142]
Isoetion durieui Braun-Blanquet 1936 [Braun-Blanquet 1936: 141]
Isoeto longissimae-Cicendietum filiformis Braun-Blanquet 1967 nom. corr. [Braun-Blanquet 1967: 29]
Lithospermo purpurocaerulei-Carpinetum betuli Oberdorfer 1957 nom. cons. [Oberdorfer 1957: 440–442]
Molinio arundinaceae-Quercetum roboris Neuhäusl et Neuhäuslová-Novotná 1967 nom. cons. [Neuhäusl and Neuhäuslová-Novotná 1967: 17–23, table 2]
Molinio arundinaceae-Quercetum roboris Samek 1962 nom. rejic. [Samek 1962: 134–135, table V on p. 156–160]
Nanocyperetalia flavescentis Klika 1935 nom. cons. [Klika 1935: 292]

Recommendations on published Proposals

(31) To conserve the name *Brachypodietalia pinnati* Korneck 1974 with a conserved type and against *Brometalia erecti* Koch 1926 and *Scorzoneretalia villosae* Kovačević 1959. Proposed by Dengler and Willner (2023). Vote: 1 pro, 6 contra (not recommended).

The recognition of mesoxeric (i.e., semi-dry) grasslands as a separate order within the class *Festuco-Brometea* is relatively recent (Mucina and Kolbek 1993; Mucina et al. 2016). While Krausch (1961) and Korneck (1974) had already proposed such an order, the prevailing syntaxonomic point of view until recently was to split the class into several geographically defined orders (e.g., Oberdorfer and Korneck 1978; Royer 1991), with mesoxeric units recognized only at the suborder, alliance, suballiance or association level.

The nomenclatural type of the name *Brometalia erecti* Koch 1926 is the alliance *Bromion erecti* Koch 1926 [≡ *Mesobromion erecti* (Braun-Blanquet et Moor 1938) Zoller 1954 nom. cons.], whose type is the *Mesobrometum erecti* Braun-Blanquet ex Koch 1926. Thus, the correct name for the order comprising all mesoxeric basiphilous grasslands of Europe is *Brometalia erecti* Koch 1926. However, given the current content of the order, one could conclude that this is a rather misleading name as *Bromus erectus* is a neophyte in many parts of Central Europe and completely absent in Eastern Europe (Willner et al. 2019). Moreover, the likely natural habitat of *Bromus erectus*, the alliance *Xerobromion* (Braun-Blanquet et Moor 1938) Zoller 1954, is no longer part of the order. Therefore, Dengler and Willner (2023) suggested that the name *Brachypodietalia pinnati* Korneck 1974 (with the alliance *Cirsio-Brachypodion* Hadač et Klika in Klika et Hadač 1944 as conserved type) would be better suited for the order of mesoxeric grasslands of western Eurasia.

The majority of the CCCN does not support this point of view, arguing that the principles of type and priority should be followed in this case. First, there is no nomenclatural problem with the name *Brometalia erecti* Koch 1926. It is a validly published name that has been used in the literature for almost a century in accordance with its nomenclatural

type. Indeed, apart from Korneck (1974), the name has hardly ever been used in a sense excluding its type. Syntaxonomic interpretations, such as the exclusion of the *Xerobromion* or the inclusion of the *Cirsio-Brachypodion* Hadač et Klika in Klika et Hadač 1944, do not lead to any nomenclatural ambiguity. Although the EuroVegChecklist (Mucina et al. 2016), which is the current syntaxonomic standard in Europe, adopted the name *Brachypodietalia pinnati*, a revision of the class in its entire range is still missing. Thus, using nomenclatural conservation for fixing seemingly "bad" names should be avoided. Moreover, the order *Brometalia erecti* is the type of the name *Festuco-Brometea* Br.-Bl. et Tx. ex Klika in Klika et Hadač 1944. Although the rejection of a name does not prevent the syntaxon from being the type of another name, the majority of the CCCN thinks that the acceptance of Proposal 31 would create more confusion than applying the normal rules of nomenclature and accepting the earliest name *Brometalia erecti* for the order of mesoxeric grasslands. However, if future revisions suggest that this order should be split into a western and an eastern mesoxeric order, the CCCN remains open to consider the conservation of the name *Brachypodietalia pinnati* Korneck 1974 with the *Cirsio-Brachypodion* as conserved type.

(32) To conserve the name *Agrostion castellanae* Rivas Goday 1958 corr. 1964 with a conserved type. Proposed by Terzi et al. (2023). Vote: 6 pro, 1 contra (recommended).

The name *Agrostion castellanae* has been widely used for an alliance of acidophilic, perennial grasslands with high soil moisture variability occurring in the Iberian Peninsula (e.g., Rivas-Martínez et al. 1999, 2001, 2011; Costa et al. 2012). These grasslands are currently included in the class *Stipo giganteae-Agrostietea castellanae* Rivas-Martínez, Fernández-González et Loidi 1999 (see, e.g., Mucina et al. 2016), whose correct name according to Terzi et al. (2024) should be *Agrostietea castellanae* Terzi, Fernández-González, Di Pietro et Theurillat 2024. However, the nomenclatural type of the *Agrostion castellanae* is the association *Holco setiglumis-Anthoxanthetum aristati* Rivas-Goday 1958, a therophytic grassland that has consistently been classified within the therophytic class *Helianthemetea guttati* [recte: *Tuberarietea guttatae* Braun-Blanquet 1973; see Terzi et al. (2023, 2024)]. In Mucina et al. (2016), this Iberian alliance of acidophilic perennial grasslands is listed under the provisional name "*Festuco amplae-Agrostion castellanae* Theurillat ined.". To preserve the name *Agrostion castellanae* for this syntaxon, Terzi and co-authors propose to designate the association *Festuco amplae-Agrostietum castellanae* Rivas-Martínez et Belmonte 1986 as the conserved type of the alliance. This proposal clearly serves the goal of Art. 53 (to avoid unnecessary changes of commonly used and validly published names of syntaxa owing to strict application of the rules), and the CCCN recommends its acceptance.

(33) To conserve the name *Poo-Astragalion* Rivas Goday et Ladero 1970 against *Medicagini-Brachypodion distachyi* Rivas-Goday et Rivas-Martínez in Rivas Goday et Ladero 1970. Proposed by Fernández-González et al. (2023). Vote: 6 pro, 1 contra (recommended).

The alliance *Poo-Astragalion* includes Iberian seasonal, perennial sheep pastures on base-rich substrates (Mucina et al. 2016). The name is widely used, but a closer inspection of the original diagnosis of the alliance (Rivas Goday and Ladero 1970: 165–169) revealed that there is a homotypic, alternative name *Medicagini-Brachypodion distachyi* that has been ignored by later authors and is not even mentioned as a synonym in recent checklists (e.g., Rivas-Martínez et al. 2011; Costa et al. 2012; Mucina et al. 2016). The term "alternative name" refers to a name that is given in the original diagnosis as another choice for naming the same syntaxon (Def. VI, Note 2). Alternative names have no priority among themselves and can be used interchangeably (Arts. 22, 30a), unless one of them is designated as the official name by conservation. To stabilise the currently accepted nomenclature, Fernández-González and co-authors propose to conserve the traditionally used name *Poo-Astragalion* against its neglected alternative name *Medicagini-Brachypodion distachyi*. The CCCN recommends acceptance of the proposal. For the selection of the name-giving species in the alliance name, see Request 5 below.

(33a) To conserve the name *Poo-Astragalion* Rivas Goday et Ladero 1970 in the inverted form *Astragalo-Poion* Rivas Goday et Ladero 1970 nom. invers. Proposal by the CCCN in conjunction with Proposals 33–34 and Requests 5–7. Vote: 6 pro, 1 contra (recommended).

This proposal should only be accepted if our recommendations on Proposals 33 and 34 and Requests 5–6 are accepted. As explained below (see Request 7), the association name *Poo-Astragaletum sesamei* Rivas-Goday et Ladero 1970 must be inverted based on the proposed conserved type. However, the same is not true for the alliance name *Poo-Astragalion* because *Poa bulbosa* and *Astragalus sesameus* belong to the same stratum (Art. 10b). For the sake of nomenclatural coherence and clarity, it seems desirable that the names of the alliance and its type association have the same sequence of name-giving taxa. Moreover, the alliance name has already been used in inverted form in recent syntaxonomic checklists (Rivas-Martínez et al. 2002, 2011). Therefore, we recommend conserving the name *Poo-Astragalion* Rivas Goday et Ladero 1970 in the inverted form *Astragalo-Poion*. Taking this Proposal and Request 5 together, the correct name of the alliance would be *Astragalo sesamei-Poion bulbosae*.

(34) To conserve the name *Poo-Astragaletum sesamei* Rivas-Goday et Ladero 1970 with a conserved type and against *Astragalo scorpioidis-Medicaginetum truncatulae* Rivas Goday et Borja 1959 nom. corr. Proposed by Fernández-González et al. (2023). Vote: 6 pro, 1 contra (recommended).

The *Poo-Astragaletum sesamei* Rivas-Goday et Ladero 1970 is the type association of the alliance *Poo-Astragalion* Rivas Goday et Ladero 1970. However, despite being widely accepted by Iberian phytosociologists (e.g., Rivas-Martínez et al. 2011; Costa et al. 2012), the *Poo-Astragaletum sesamei* was shown to be a superfluous name because its original diagnosis includes another

association neglected in the syntaxonomic literature, the *Astragalo scorpioidis-Medicaginetum tribuloidis* Rivas Goday et Borja 1959 [recte: *Astragalo scorpioidis-Medicaginetum truncatulae* Rivas Goday et Borja 1959 nom. corr.]. Hence, in order to avoid the change of a commonly used name, Fernández-González and co-authors propose the designation of a conserved neotype for the *Poo-Astragaletum sesamei* and the conservation of this name against the earlier heterotypic synonym. The CCCN recommends acceptance of the proposal. At the same time, the name *Poo-Astragaletum sesamei* must be inverted (see Request 7).

Recommendations on Requests for a binding decision

(5) Selection of the name-giving taxa *Poa bulbosa* and *Astragalus sesameus* in the name *Poo-Astragalion* Rivas Goday et Ladero 1970. Request by Fernández-González et al. (2023). Vote: 6 pro, 1 abstention (recommended).

The original diagnosis of the *Poo-Astragalion* Rivas Goday et Ladero 1970 contains two species of the genus *Poa* and six species of *Astragalus*, without clear indication of the name-giving ones.

Poa bulbosa is the most frequent species in the table and the name-giving taxon of the order *Poetalia bulbosae*. The second *Poa* species (*Poa rigida*, a homotypic synonym of *Catapodium rigidum*) is less frequent in the table and considered by the authors as a character species of another class ("*Thero-Brachypodietea*"). Of the six *Astragalus* species, only *A. sesameus* is considered as a character species of the alliance by Rivas Goday and Ladero (1970), and it is also the most frequent species of the genus in the table and the name-giving taxon of the type association *Poo-Astragaletum sesamei* Rivas-Goday et Ladero 1970. Therefore, Fernández-González and co-authors suggest that *Poa bulbosa* and *Astragalus sesameus* should be chosen as the name-giving taxa. The CCCN follows their arguments and recommends acceptance of the proposal.

(6) Selection of the name-giving taxon *Poa bulbosa* in the name *Poo-Astragaletum sesamei* Rivas Goday et Ladero 1970. Request by Fernández-González et al. (2023). Vote: 6 pro, 1 abstention (recommended).

For the same reasons as discussed under the alliance name (see Request 5 above), Fernández-González and co-authors propose to complete the name *Poo-Astragaletum sesamei* by selecting *Poa bulbosa* as the name-giving taxon. The CCCN recommends acceptance of the proposal.

(7) Inversion of the name *Poo-Astragaletum sesamei* Rivas Goday et Ladero 1970. Request by Fernández-González et al. (2023). No vote.

According to Art. 42, the nomenclatural type is relevant to determine the correct sequence of the name-giving taxa. Provided that our recommendations on Proposal 34 and Request 6 are accepted, the correct form of the name is *Astragalo sesamei-Poetum bulbosae*. This case is not ambiguous because *Poa bulbosa* has cover 3 in the proposed neotype, while *Astragalus sesameus* has cover 1. The situation would only be ambiguous if both species had the same cover in the type relevé. Thus, no binding decision is necessary.

Data availability

No statement.

Author contributions

All authors are members of the CCCN and participated in the evaluation and discussion of the Proposals and the Requests. W.W. planned the Report and wrote the first draft, which was commented and revised by all authors.

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